and support helplines to assist those in need.

(d) and (e) MOIA had invited suggestions from the States in which this problem is acute for improving the guidance booklet. A national consultation was also held on 18th February, 2006 to which States in which the problem is acute were invited and their views on the issue were noted.

People going to Gulf and other countries

460. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new guidelines for clearance of those persons going to gulf and other countries for work;

(b) whether those guidelines have been found tough and people find it difficult to get emigration clearance;

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to amend the guidelines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The procedure of grant of emigration clearance is contained in Rules 15 and 16 of the Emigration Rules, 1983 and guidelines issued from time to time. No new guidelines has been issued in this regard.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Application for dual citizenship

† 461. SHJSIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications from Non-Resident Indians for dual citizenship that have been received, so far;

(b) the names of countries from where these applications have been received mainly; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) by when the process of granting dual citizenship would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRIVAYALAR RAVI): (a) As on 17.2.2006 a total of 4748 Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) applications were received, out of which 1690 incomplete applications were returned to Missions/MHA. The remaining 3058 OCI applications were processed and OCI documents sent to the Missions direct by courier/ through MHA for handing them over to the applicants.

(b) OCI applications have been received mainly from US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, UK and UAE.

(c) This is an on going process.

Transfer of IAS officers

† 462. SHRIMATI KAMLAMANHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to stop the time and again transfers of officers of Indian Administrative Services which is considered the backbone of the administration of the country and keeping there in a particular department for a fixed tenure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made with regard to action taken/to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCESAND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) The Central Government has initiated a proposal to amend the relevant All India Services Rules to provide for a fixed tenure for various posts to which All India Services Officers are appointed. The State Governments are being consulted in this regard. In view of the need for a consensus in the matter, no time frame has been fixed to complete the exercise.

IAS Officers from SC/ST/OBC Category

463. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.